



U.S. Consulate Nogales
Warden Message

Warden Message – Security Issues

May 19, 2010

This Warden Message is to inform U.S. citizens traveling to and residing in Mexico of security concerns for travelers driving on Highway 8 between the U.S./Mexico border and Puerto Peñasco (Rocky Point). There have been unconfirmed reports that unauthorized checkpoints have been set up by unknown persons at night. Reports from those passing through these checkpoints indicate that the operators of the checkpoint only requested to see identification before allowing them to pass. U.S. Consulate Nogales strongly advises any traveler who must take this route do so during daylight hours.

The Consulate's Security office has advised Consulate personnel to limit travel to major roads during daylight hours. Further, Consulate staff on official travel between cities must use armored vehicles. U.S. government employees are also instructed to follow the security practices detailed in "A Safe Trip Abroad," which can be found at http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/safety/safety_1747.html.

If you are stopped at an unofficial checkpoint:

1. Do not resist. Cooperate immediately and fully.
2. Stay calm, put up your hands, and comply with demands.
3. If you have a child in the car, immediately alert the checkpoint operators of the child's presence.

At some checkpoints, motorists who have not stopped at unofficial checkpoints have been shot at and killed.

If you are a victim, be sure to notify the U.S. Consulate in Nogales (+52-631-313-8150, or +52-1-631-318-0723 after hours) and consider contacting local police at 066.

U.S. citizens traveling through northern Mexico should exercise caution. Review of recent violence indicates that although criminal acts can occur unexpectedly at any time of day, overall it is safer to travel during the morning and early afternoon hours. American citizens are advised to refer to guidance in the Department of State's most recent Travel Warning for Mexico located

on the internet at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_3028.html and Country Specific Information for Mexico, which can be found at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_970.html for additional information regarding the current security situation in the country. U.S. citizens living or traveling abroad are encouraged to register with the nearest U.S. Embassy or consulate through the State Department's travel registration website <http://travel.state.gov/ibrs/ui>.

For any emergencies involving U.S. citizens in Mexico, please contact the U.S. Embassy or the closest U.S. Consulate.

U.S. citizens in Nogales' consular district may contact the American Citizens Services (ACS) Unit at the U.S. Consulate, located on Calle San Jose (S/N), Col. Los Alamos, Nogales, Sonora, Mexico; telephone 011 +52 (631) 311-8150; after hours emergency telephone 011 +52 1 (631) 318-0723; web page: <http://nogales.usconsulate.gov/>; ACS Unit fax 011 +52 (631) 313-4652; email: NogalesACS@state.gov